

Remarks

Reconsideration of this patent application is respectfully requested, particularly as herein amended.

The Office Action of April 14, 2006, objects to claims 5 to 11 under 37 C.F.R. §1.75(c) for being in improper multiple dependent form, and rejects claims 2, 3/2 and 4/2 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for stated reasons. Allowable subject matter has been identified in claims 1 to 4.

In reply, original claims 1 to 11 have been canceled and replaced with new claims 12 to 27. Claims 12 to 19 replace original claims 1 to 4, and have been drafted to comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claims 20 to 27 replace original claims 5 to 11, and have been drafted to comply with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §1.75(c), as well as the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. It is submitted that this operates to overcome the objections and formulated rejections included in the Office Action of April 14, 2006, placing pending claims 12 to 27 in condition for allowance. In the event that any additional issues are identified which may require further consideration, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned to discuss and resolve such issues.

The Office Action of April 14, 2006, also objects to the abstract of the disclosure, citing §608.01(b) of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, for including the term "said" at

specified locations, and objects to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. §1.84(p)(5) for omission of the reference number 13 which is mentioned in the description at line 28 of page 6.

In reply, an amended Abstract has been submitted for this patent application, and two (2) "Replacement Sheets" of drawings are enclosed with this Reply.

The amended Abstract has further been reproduced on a separate sheet enclosed with this Reply, in accordance with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §1.72(b), and the entry of the amended Abstract is respectfully requested.

Responsive to the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §1.121(d), the Replacement Sheets of drawings operate to amend Fig. 2 to include a reference number "13" which indicates the sealing member identified in the description at line 28 of page 6, to overcome the objection to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. §1.84(p)(5), and to amend Fig. 1 and Fig. 2 to include a reference number "14" which schematically indicates the articulating structure identified in the description from line 29 of page 6 to line 3 of page 7. Entry of the enclosed Replacement Sheets of drawings is respectfully requested.

Although not required by the issued Office Action, a substitute specification has further been submitted for this patent application. The substitute specification presents amendments which have been made to provide appropriate section headings, to include the reference number "14" which has been

added to amended Fig. 1 and Fig. 2, and to make grammatical corrections resulting from translation of the original specification from French into English.

A marked-up copy of the original specification showing the changes which have been made in the substitute specification has also been enclosed, on separate pages, in accordance with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §1.125(c). The substitute specification includes no new matter, and the entry of the enclosed substitute specification is therefore respectfully requested in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.125(b).

The Office Action of April 14, 2006, also acknowledges receipt of the papers submitted in support of applicants' claim of priority under 35 U.S.C. §119. A further acknowledgement of this is provided on the "Office Action Summary" page issued with the Office Action. The undersigned thanks the Examiner for these acknowledgements, confirming applicants' claim of priority under 35 U.S.C. §119.

As a final matter, the Office Action of April 14, 2006, acknowledges receipt of the Information Disclosure Statement which was filed in this matter on October 4, 2005. However, it is further indicated that one of the documents cited in the Information Disclosure Statement (EP 0 715 508) has not been considered because a copy of the document was not supplied with the Information Disclosure Statement, which is said to fail to comply with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2).

It is submitted that the Information Disclosure Statement which was filed in this matter on October 4, 2005, fully complied with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2), and was appropriately considered. As indicated on the "Filing Receipt" issued for the present U.S. Patent Application, "[t]his application is a 371 of PCT/FR03/03218". EP 0 715 508 was cited in the "International Search Report" issued for International Application No. PCT/FR03/03218. As indicated on the "Notice of Acceptance of Application Under 35 U.S.C 371 and 37 CFR 1.495" issued with the Filing Receipt, a copy of this International Search Report has been received by the U.S. Patent Office. Accordingly, it is submitted that there was no need to supply a copy of EP 0 715 508 with the Information Disclosure Statement which was filed on October 4, 2005, and that this cited document was, and is, appropriately considered.

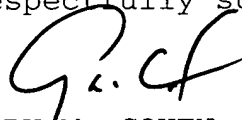
Nevertheless, and for the Examiner's convenience, a copy of EP 0 715 508 has been enclosed with an additional Information Disclosure Statement which is being submitted for this matter, and which accompanies this Reply.

It is submitted that the accompanying Information Disclosure Statement is appropriately considered under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c), and the fee (\$180.00) required for this under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) is enclosed with this Reply. Due consideration of the accompanying Information Disclosure Statement, and the return of an appropriately initialed PTO-1449 form to acknowledge such

consideration, is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance and corresponding action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G.M. Cohen', written over the printed name.

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